

Dear Sirs:

The IRS is currently seeking information for Strategic Partnerships In Education contracts for fiscal year 2000, with option years through fiscal year 2004. With option years, the estimated total maximum value of the requirement could be as high as \$30,000,000. Our focus area of response will be colleges, universities, corporate universities, and other institutions of higher learning.

This Request for Information (RFI) is for planning purposes only. *Responses to this RFI are not offers and cannot be accepted by the Government to form a binding contract.* The IRS plans to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Strategic Partnerships In Education later this year.

Attached is a draft Statement of Work (SOW) describing the requirement in depth and draft Contract Line Items (CLINs) listing the types of deliverables we foresee under the contracts. Your input is invited for informational purposes in the following areas:

- Provide suggestions for curricula development to satisfy the IRS education requirements.
- Discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of the attached draft SOW as a contractual document, from your perspective. Identify SOW requirements that appear ambiguous and require clarification and suggest possible changes.
- Discussion of how the draft CLINs could be further defined in the solicitation and contract to facilitate ordering CLINs from the basic award as task orders.
- Discussion of what items could be priced in the basic contracts (e.g., an existing accounting course in your published course catalog), and discussion of how items that cannot be priced in the basic contracts could be priced in the task orders issued under the basic contract as the IRS identifies specific requirements (e.g., development of a specialized course for IRS). Include comments on how you think each one of the draft CLIN deliverables should be priced, based as closely as possible on how the items are commercially priced. *Specific prices or estimated prices are not requested at this time for any CLINs.*
- Discussion of practicable ideas from your perspective for selection and pricing criteria that could be used to provide the multiple Strategic Partnership awardees a fair opportunity to be considered for individual orders for those items which cannot be priced at the time of the basic contracts, but which will have to instead be priced at the time the Government is ready to issue task orders. Describe the criteria the IRS should use to select Strategic Partners for task orders that will best meet the

educational needs described. Include criteria that educational institutions consider to be appropriate discriminators in selecting task order awardees. This is something which the Government will be required by Federal Acquisition Regulations to set forth in the solicitation and contract, but we are very concerned that the selection criteria for individual task orders which we do set forth be practicable, fair, and not administratively burdensome for either the Government or the Strategic Partnership awardees. Please note that the basic Strategic Partnership awards will not contain any orders in themselves.

- Discussion of any type of educational prerequisites IRS employees would be required to have before taking any of your foreseen Strategic Partnerships curricula offerings.
- Discussion of lessons learned from other experiences with Strategic Partnerships for education.
- Discussion of your distance learning capabilities, such as the Internet, satellite, etc., and your ability to deliver courses in this way.

Once again, at this time everything is for informational purposes only for defining the requirement and how it should be purchased. Your response to the RFI will not be used for selecting Strategic Partner awardees.

All training, curricula, and other technical questions should be directed to Ms. Gwen Lewis at 703/308-6085 or Ms. Janis Beauregard at e-mail address Janis.R.Beauregard@m1.irs.gov. All questions concerning price and contract terms and conditions should be directed to Mr. Paul Attorri at 202/283-1103 (e-mail address paul.attorri@ccmail.irs.gov). Your written response to this RFI is requested by August 4, 1999. Your written response should be sent to Mr. Attorri at IRS-M:P:O:S; 6009 Oxon Hill Rd.; Oxon Hill, MD 20745. Your interest in responding to this Request for Information is greatly appreciated.

Very Truly Yours,

Paul Attorri  
Contracting Officer